

***"Life into Literature" – A Writer's Retreat***  
Tallman Hotel, Sunday April 22 to Friday April 27, 2012  
**Schedule**

**Sunday, April 22**

**3:00 or after:** Check in at the Hotel.

**5:30:** Champagne reception and brief introductions in the parlor.

**6:30:** Welcome dinner in the Dining Room. At dinner, Mary McMillian, the previous Lake County Poet Laureate, will welcome the group and provide an overview of the writing and literary scene in rural Lake County.

**7:30:** Adjourn to the Meeting Room. Hotel owner Bernie Butcher presents a brief overview of Lake County, Upper Lake and the history of the hotel and its renovation. Laura Fraser introduces the schedule and the participants for the remainder of the retreat.

**Bio: Laura Fraser** - Laura Fraser is the author, most recently, of [All Over the Map](#) (Harmony Books, 2010), which Booklist called "a winning coming-of-middle-age memoir." Her previous book, [An Italian Affair](#) (Pantheon, 2001), was a *New York Times* best-selling travel memoir.

Laura's first book, [Losing It: America's Obsession with Weight and the Industry that Feeds on It](#) (Dutton, 1995), was a ground-breaking and award-winning exposé of the diet industry. Laura has written for a wide variety of publications and her work has been included in anthologies including *Best Food Writing* and *Best Women's Travel Writing*.

As a teacher, Laura focuses on creativity and craft, giving students permission to write what they're passionate about, then offering tools to make it clear, well-researched, thoughtfully ordered, and irresistible to the reader. She has taught writing at the UC Berkeley School of Journalism, SF State and other academic and seminar sites. She organizes two annual week-long writers' workshops in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.



**Monday, April 23**

**7:30-9:00:** Continental breakfast in Hotel dining room.

**9:00-11:30:** Writing lecture by Laura and free-writing exercises.

**11:30-2:00** Lunch on own at Blue Wing Restaurant next door or elsewhere.

**2:00-5:30:** Individual 20-minute conferences about writing goals with Laura.

**6:30:** Dinner on the heated veranda of the Blue Wing Restaurant as the weekly Blue Wing Monday Blues takes place inside featuring excellent local blues bands. (Dinner with limited menu but including a vegetarian option included in price. Alcoholic beverages extra.)

**Tuesday, April 24**

**7:30-9:00:** Continental breakfast in Hotel dining room.

**9:00-11:30:** Writing lecture, free writing exercises, and workshop of individual students' pieces.

**12:00-2:00:** Lunch on own at Blue Wing or elsewhere.

**2:00-5:30:** Individual writing time.

**3:00:** Optional visit to lakeside Ceago Vinegarden biodynamic winery.

**6:00-7:30** Small plates dinner and wine tasting (included in retreat price) at the Lake County Wine Studio across the street from the hotel hosted by owner Susan Feiler. The Studio features local artists and wines from some of Lake County's fine smaller wineries.

**7:30-9:00** Adjourn to the Meeting Room for a panel discussion moderated by Laura with authors Peter Orner and Tom Barbash.



**Bio: Peter Orner** – Now based in San Francisco, Peter Orner holds both law and MFA degrees. His fiction and non-fiction has appeared in a wide variety of publications. He has created a popular novel from his experience in Namibia in the early 1990s. The Boston Globe commented that his most recent novel, *Love and Shame and Love*, brought Orner into “the first rank of American writers.”



**Bio: Tom Barbash** - Tom currently teaches at Stanford University, where he was part of the acclaimed Stegner Fellowship Program, at California College of the Arts and at the Rainier Writing Workshop, a low-residency MFA program at Pacific Lutheran University. His novel *A Last Good Chance* was shaped by his experience as a reporter for the *Syracuse Post Standard*.

### **Wednesday, April 25**

**7:30-9:00:** Continental breakfast in Hotel dining room.

**9:00-1130:** Writing lecture, free writing exercises, and workshop of individual students' pieces.

**12:00-2:00:** A soup and salad lunch in the Dining Room will allow informal interaction with Laura, Peter and Tom.

**2:00-5:30:** Individual writing time

**3:00:** Optional visit to Kelseyville and the tasting rooms of Wildhurst, Rosa d'Oro and the Chacewater Winery and Olive Mill.

**6:00:** Dinner on your own at the Blue Wing or other locales in Lakeport or Kelseyville.

### **Thursday, April 26**

**7:30-9:00:** Continental breakfast in Hotel dining room

**9:00-11:30:** Writing workshop focusing on fine-tuning each participant's piece of writing.

**12:00:** A sandwich spread buffet will be provided for lunch in the Dining Room. After lunch, writer Victoria Costello will talk to the group about her own writing and the principles she's developed for constructing a memoir.



**Bio: Victoria Costello** - Based in San Francisco, Victoria is a writer who wears many hats. Whether for self or conventionally published projects, she brings the voices and experiences of real people to the page. She has ghostwritten and co-authored many projects and recently published *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing a Memoir*. Her most recent book is *Lethal Inheritance* about her own family's experience with mental illness.

**2:00-5:30:** Victoria and Laura meet with participants to plan the evening's selected readings.

**6:00-7:30:** Three course concluding dinner prepared by Blue Wing Executive Chef Nick Heidemann and paired with Writer's Block wines produced by Quincy Steele of Steele Winery in Kelseyville. Quincy and other members of Lake County literary groups will be invited to meet participants and faculty over dinner.

**7:30-9:00:** Adjourn to the conference room where the group, including an audience of interested Lake County writers, will hear and discuss 3-minute readings from participants.

### **Friday, April 27**

**7:30-9:00:** Continental breakfast in Hotel dining room

**Checkout by 11:00.**

